

Serial No. 10/672,083
60130-1896
02MRA0122

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An obstruction detector comprising:
a light sensor; and
a circuit that analyzes light received by the light sensor, wherein the circuit compares a distribution of the light received by the sensor to a reference distribution and updates the reference distribution.
2. (ORIGINAL) The detector in claim 1, wherein the light sensor is a charge-coupled device sensor.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The detector in claim 2, wherein the light sensor includes a plurality of imaging elements, and the distribution of the light defines a histogram of gray levels of the plurality of imaging elements.
4. (ORIGINAL) The detector in claim 1, further including a lens in a path of the light received by the light sensor.
5. (CANCELLED)
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The detector in claim 1, further including a light source to illuminate an area proximate to the light sensor.
7. (ORIGINAL) The detector in claim 6, wherein the light source is an infrared light source.
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The detector in claim 7, wherein the light source is activated when the light received by the light sensor is below a first threshold value.
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The detector in claim ~~7~~8, wherein the light source is deactivated when the light received by the light sensor is above a second threshold value.

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10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An automobile vehicle part comprising:
an opening;
~~a moving an~~ openable member in the opening and moveable to a closing line, ~~and wherein~~
the openable member contacts ~~said the~~ closing line when the openable member is in a closed
position; and
a detector including a light sensor and a circuit that analyzes light received by the light
sensor, wherein the circuit compares a distribution of the light received by the light sensor to a
reference distribution and updates the reference distribution.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The part in claim 10, wherein the light sensor detects
approximately an area surrounding the closing line.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of detecting an obstruction in a path of an
openable member comprising the steps of:
detecting light along a closing line of the openable member with a light sensor to form a
light distribution;
comparing the light distribution along the closing line with a reference distribution; and
indicating an obstruction when the step of comparing the light indicates ~~the an~~ obstruction
is in the path of the openable member; and
updating the reference distribution.
13. (CANCELLED)
14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method in claim 12, wherein the step of detecting the
light includes the steps of integrating and detecting an ambient brightness, and the step of
~~integration-integrating~~ occurs over a period dependent on the ambient brightness detected.
15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method in claim 14, wherein the step of detecting the
ambient brightness comprises measuring the light received on the light sensor.
16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method in claim 12, further comprising the step of
activating a light source when the light received by the light sensor is below a first threshold
value.

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17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method in claim 16, further comprising the step of deactivating the light source when the light received by the light sensor is above a second threshold value.
18. (NEW) The detector of claim 1, wherein the reference distribution is a reference histogram of grey levels.
19. (NEW) The part of claim 10, wherein the reference distribution is a reference histogram of grey levels.
20. (NEW) The method of claim 12, wherein the reference distribution is a reference histogram of grey levels.